



### **PETITION TO INCREASE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER RESEARCH**

Daniel Hunter Outen was diagnosed with Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia in June, 2018, at 16 years old. APL is a type of blood cancer characterized by a marked increase in the blood cells known as promyelocytes, a type of immature white blood cell. It develops in about 600 to 800 individuals each year in the United States, most often in adults around the age of 40. This is a rare type of Leukemia, affecting only 35 out of 805 AML cases. With APL, you are only given 2-3 weeks to find a diagnosis when initially being brought in. Otherwise it becomes a death sentence.

Going through all of this with our son has been tortuous to endure. Watching your healthy 16 year old suddenly unable to do any of the things he

once did is devastating. He was unable to do anything without assistance. The treatments have caused long term side effects that may never go away and there is nothing we can do to stop it. I am so grateful for the hospital that saved my son but the treatments and their side effects are horrendous to say the least. Something needs to be done to ensure that after Chemotherapy we do not have to worry about it potentially being a cause of death for a child too weak to handle it.

The federal government right now is only allowing 4% funding for childhood cancer research and that is simply not enough funding to pursue more research. Signing this petition to increase that 4% to 8% is detrimental in helping to find a cure. These children deserve a fighting chance as well as their families. We must do everything we can to stand together and make sure these children are heard. This year alone, it is estimated that 10,470 children will be diagnosed with cancer and 1,050 of those children will die.

Aside from the physical struggles my son faces daily, there is emotional damage inflicted upon him as well. He struggles with depression and PTSD caused by the constant unknown. Hunter had to miss out on so many things due to being immunocompromised. I am so thankful to still have him here with us, but I am terrified everyday that one of his many appointments will end with the news of relapse. My heart could not handle that. Watching what he endured throughout his treatments and still does today, causes me the same mental anguish as Hunter. No child should have to spend more time in the hospital than they do being a kid.

One of the many reasons I am so passionate to find a cure for childhood cancer, is due to the fact that I do not want to see anymore families torn apart by this horrible disease. Nothing can prepare you for what you will go through during

your child's fight. So many of these children do not make it and if they do, there is always a chance of it coming back. Every child's cancer battle is different. But they all have the same goal. That goal is to beat cancer. You can help us do that by signing this petition. Your signature will aid in ensuring that this is taken to the top of the list. We need 12 million signatures to begin the next phase of this fight. Please join us by clicking the link below.

**[CLICK HERE TO SIGN](#)**